

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECDEF WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0382

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MASS TC

SUBJECT : TRAINING FOR ABU DHABI NAVAL FORCE

FOR OSD/ISA, CMDR SICK

REF: SICK-TO-PEALE LTR OF 11 DEC 75 (NOTAL)1

1. DCM MET WITH CAPT NABIL MADWAR, COMMANDER ADDF NAVAL FORCE (NF), AND HIS DEPUTY CMDR TARIQ, FEB 8 TO DISCUSS VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES FOR TRAINING IN U.S. FOR NAVAL FORCE PERSONNEL AS PER SUGGESTIONS REF LTR. RESULTS/FURTHER INQUIRIES AS FOLLOWS:

(A) ENLISTED TRAINING--DCM DESCRIBED PROGRAM ESTABLISHED FOR SAUDIS MAKING VERY CLEAR THAT USG NOT PUSHING THIS PROGRAM IN UAE, BUT THAT, IF IT APPEARED MEET ADDF NF NEEDS, UAEG MIGHT WISH DISCUSS WITH SAG POSSIBILITY OF WORKING FEW ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL INTO PROGRAM. MADWAR/TARIQ REACTION WAS BOTH PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC. THEY NOTED THAT MOST OF NF ENLISTED PERSONNEL WERE NOT UAE (MUCH LESS ABU DHABI NATIVES). THEY WERE NOT PARTICULARLY INTERESTED/IN PROVIDING EXTENSIVE RECRUIT TRAINING, SUCH AS INVOLVED IN SAUDI PROGRAM, FOR FOREIGN (LARGELY OMANI) PERSONNEL. THEY DID, HOWEVER, INDICATE THEY MIGHT EXPLORE POSSIBILITY FINDING ONE OR TWO GOOD LOCAL

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CANDIDATES FOR SUCH PROGRAMS. MADWAR/TARIQ WERE MORE

INTERESTED IN SPECIAL RATING SCHOOLS SET UP FOR SAUDIS AND ASKED WHAT SPECIFIC FIELDS INVOLVED. (MEMO SUBMITTED WITH

REF LTR SAYS SCHOOLS ESTABLISHED FOR "BM, YN, SK AND RM" RATINGS. DCM WAS UNABLE TO TRANSLATE.) TARIQ, WHO HAS ATTENDED USN SCHOOLS, ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT "ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS" AND "GUNNERS MATE" COURSES, NOTING THAT ADDF NF MIGHT WISH EVEN SEND JUNIOR OFFICERS TO SUCH PROGRAMS.

(B) MIDSHIPMENT/OFFICER TRAINING--MADWAR IS BASICALLY MORE INTERESTED IN THIS AREA. HE AND TARIQ EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST IN MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY/NROTC POSSIBILITY (BUT FRANKLY WE EXPECT THEY WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO COME UP WITH CANDIDATES FOR UNIVERSITY LEVEL TRAINING, MUCH LESS BE ABLE TO KEEP THEM IN NF ON COMPLETION). AS FOR OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL OPTION, THEY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THEIR JUNIOR OFFICERS (GRADS OF PAKISTANI AND EGYPTIAN NAVAL ACADEMIES) WOULD NOT BE INCLINED TO GO THROUGH SIMILAR TOUGHT PROGRAM AGAIN (DCM DECIDED IT NOT POLITIC AT THIS POINT TO GET INTO QUESTION WHETHER PAKISTANI AND EGYPTIAN SCHOOLS PRODUCED RESULT EQUIVALENT TO OCS). WHAT ADDF NF REALLY INTERESTED IN IS COURSES OF JUNIOR OFFICERS (PRESUMABLY LT JG/LT LEVEL) IN VARIOUS SPECIALITIES APPLICABLE TO LOCAL REQUIREMENTS. TARIQ CITED FOLLOWING SPECIFIC COURSES: CIC, OPERATIONS OFFICER, COMMUNIATIONS, NON-TECHNICAL DIESEL PROPULSION, UNDER WATER DEMOLITION (APPARENTLY TARIQ HIMSELF TOOK LATTER COURSE). TARIQ DESCRIBED TO NABIL USN SYSTEM (SIC) WHICH SAW OFFICERS PERIODICALLY GO BACK FOR 3-6 MONTH COURSES IN VARIOUS SPECIALIZATIONS ALL LEADING UP TO EVENTUAL POSITION OF COMMAND. MADWAR/TARIQ STATED THAT THEY FELT NF HAD QUALIFIED CANDIDATES (WITH ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY) FOR SUCH COURSES AND ASKED DCM FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SUCH POSSIBILITIES--E.G. AVAILABILITY. DURATION, SYLLABUS, PREREQUISITES.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY WELL AWARE THAT ADDF NF VIEW OF QUALITY/QUALIFICATIONS OF ITS OWN OFFICERS AND RATINGS MAY NOT SQUARE WITH THAT OF U.S. NAVY. CLEARLY WORKING FROM GROUND UP--EITHER WITH RECRUITS OR MIDSHIPMEN--SUCH AS IN SAUDI PROGRAM MUCH MORE LIKELY PRODUCE GOOD RESULTS. AND

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IT MAY WELL BE THAT WITHOUT SUCH BASIC GROUNDING NF PERSONNEL WILL BE UNABLE MEET STANDARDS REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION TO USN COURSES. HOWEVER, ADDF NF DEFINITELY LACKS MANPOWER BASE EXISTING IN RSNF AND MUCH WHICH MAKES SENSE FOR SAUDIS IS NOT, AT LEAST FOR PRESENT, PRACTICAL HERE. IN SHORT, CAPT MADWAR'S INTEREST IN TRYING TO UPGRADE WHAT HE NOW HAS MAKES SENSE. WE HOPE THAT AT LEAST IN SOME AREAS WE WILL BE ABLE ASSIST HIM IN THIS EFFORT.

3. ACTION REQUEST: THAT SECDEF PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFO ON BOTH RATING AND JUNIOR OFFICER TRAINING POSSIBILITIES IN PARTICULAR AREAS OF NF INTEREST INDICATED ABOVE. WHERE PROBLEMS OF PREQUALIFICATION ARE LIKELY TO OCCUR, THESE SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE HIGHLIGHTED.

4. FURTHER ACTION: IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING FURTHER INFO AS PER PARA THREE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL (AND QUITE POSSIBLY MORE PRODUCTIVE) IF U.S. NAVY TRAINING OFFICER IN SAUDI ARABIA, WHO IS FAMILAR WITH WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR SAG, COULD COME TO ABU DHABI FOR FEW DAYS TO WORK ON ADDF NF NEEDS. THIS WOULD BRING NEEDED PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE INTO DIRECT CONQCT WITH PROBLEM AND SHOULD GREATLY EXPEDITE PINPOINTING OF POSSIBILITIES. (OBVIOUSLY IF PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR SAG SEEMED TO FIT REQUIREMENTS, OBLIGATION WOULD REMAIN WITH UAEG TO WORK OUT PARTICIPATION WITH SAG.) IF THIS SUGGESTION MEETS WITH APPROVAL SECDEF AND RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES IN MISSION JIDDA, WE WILL MAKE OFFER TO NF AND REPORT REACTION.

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